

REMARKS

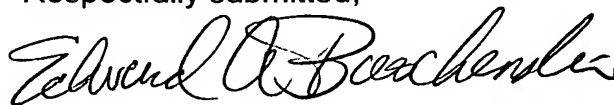
Applicants file this amendment contemporaneously with the application to which it pertains, that application representing a conversion of international application PCT/US03/22135 into a U.S. national stage application.

The PCT application underwent a preliminary examination in the European Patent Office, and that examination produced two Written Opinions and two Written Replies and culminated in an International Preliminary Examination Report dated 9 November 2004. All of those documents are submitted herewith.

The claims presented under the heading "Listing of Claims" form part of the International Preliminary Examination Report and indeed are the claims addressed in that report.

The information disclosure statement submitted with the application includes the references cited in the International Search Report or otherwise considered in the preliminary examination. In this regard, U.S. patent 6,453,732 appears to correspond to German Offenlegungsschrift DE 10034 844 that was cited in the International Search Report.

Respectfully submitted,



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